

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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INFO AMEMBASY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PARGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USIA WASHDC

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 0886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR,US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON DETENTE

USIA FOR IBS, IEE,IPS, IOP/M

REFS: A. MOSCOW 0827 B. MOSCOW 18878

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS HAS IN THE
PAST FEW DAYS DEVOTED EXCEPTIONAL COVERAGE TO THE DETENTE
THEME, DENYING ASSERTIONS FROM ABROAD THAT SOVIET
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REJECTION OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT MEANS A REEVALUATION

BY THE USSR OF ITS DETENTE POLICIES. STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ON THE NEED TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS RECEIVED PROMINENT PRESS PLAY, AND THE JANUARY 20 NATIONWIDE EVENING NEWS PROGRAM COMMENTED THAT THESE STATEMENTS BY U.S. LEADERS WERE RECEIVED IN MOSCOW WITH SATISFACTION. A BOVIN COMMENTARY IN IZVESTIYA (REF A) AFFIRMED SOVIET READINESS TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. VLADIVOSTOK AND THE SAL ACCORD REACHED THERE RECEIVED RENEWED PRAISE IN THE PRESS.

2. THE IZVESTIYA LEAD EDITORIAL ON JANUARY 18 WAS A RINGING DEFENSE OF DETENTE, ITS BENEFITS FOR COMMUNIST AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES, AND A STRONG REAFFIRMATION OF THE SOVIET INTENTION TO CONTINUE DETENTE POLICIES. THE PRAVDA LEADER ON THE SAME DAY, HOWEVER, AS WELL AS THE KRASNAYA ZVEZDA LEADER ON JANUARY 21, APPEARED TO DOWNPLAY THE ROLE OF DETENTE IN ACHIEVING THE PRESENT AUTHORITATIVE POSITION OCCUPIED BY THE USSR IN WORLD AFFAIRS. WHILE THE DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT MAY BE EXPLAINED BY THE DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONAL ROLES OF THE THREE PAPERS (PARTY AND ARMY ON THE ONE SIDE, GOVERNMENT ON THE OTHER), IT IS UNUSUAL. ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS THE FACT THAT IZVESTIYA SEEMS TO BE CARRYING THE BURDEN OF ASSERTING CONTINUED SOVIET COMMITMENT TO DETENTE.

3. CRITICAL COVERAGE OF THE U.S. CONTINUES AT THE HIGH LEVEL WHICH HAS BECOME STANDARD IN THE LAST MONTH. END SUMMARY.

4. THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON JANUARY 17 THAT THE PRESIDENT IS CONVINCED THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR IS IMPORTANT FOR WORLD PEACE AND STABILITY IS THE LEAD LINE IN A LENGTHY TASS PIECE TITLED "FOR CONTINUATION OF DETENTE POLICY" IN PRAVDA ON JANUARY 18. THE SAME ARTICLE ALSO EMPHASIZES A STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW THAT THE TWO NATIONS MUST CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN ORDER TO AVOID NUCLEAR WAR. PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL REVIEW ON JANUARY 20 CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON VLADIVOSTOK IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS. THE

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SOVIET NATIONWIDE EVENING NEWS PROGRAM ON JANUARY 20 STATED THAT THESE REMARKS BY HIGH US OFFICIALS WERE RECEIVED IN MOSCOW WITH SATISFACTION."

5. THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD IS GIVEN RENEWED POSITIVE TREATMENT IN A TASS ARTICLE IN PRAVDA ON JANUARY 19 QUOTING ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE PRAISING THE AGREEMENT. THE SAME ARTICLE NOTES THAT SENATORS KENNEDY AND

MONDALE HAVE INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ACCORD (WITHOUT MENTION OF THE RESOLUTION'S RESERVATIONS ON THE HIGH CEILINGS). KENNEDY IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE SHARES THE SECRETARY'S VIEW THAT THE POLITICAL PRECONDITIONS FOR A POLICY OF DETENTE BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE US "REMAIN IN FULL FORCE" AND THAT THE U.S. INTENDS TO CONTINUE THIS POLICY. PRAVDA ON JANUARY 20 ALSO EMPHASIZES WILLY BRANDT'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD DURING AN SPD CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN POLICY. PRAVDA ON JANUARY 21 REPLAYS A STATEMENT BY FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES THAT IN HIS ESTIMATION SOVIET REJECTION OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT DOES NOT MEAN SOVIETS ARE CALLING INTO QUESTION POLICY OF DETENTE.

6. IZVESTIYA'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT, A. KOBYSH, EMPHASIZES IN A COMMENTARY ON JANUARY 17 THE "SURPRISE" REGISTERED IN THE U.S. OVER SOVIET REJECTION OF CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TRADE AGREEMENT. HE IMPLIES THAT, DESPITE WARNINGS BY THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT FORD, AMONG OTHERS, THE TRADE BILL WAS SLIPPED THROUGH CONGRESS WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF MANY INFLUENTIAL GROUPS. LIKE BOVIN (REF A) KOBYSH NOTES THAT CONGRESS'S ACTION IS A STEP BACKWARDS FOR U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS (BY QUOTING PEPSICO PRESIDENT KENDALL TO THAT EFFECT). BUT HE CONCLUDES THAT THE SOVIET STATE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DETENTE "IN ALL ITS FOREIGN POLICY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S."

7. THE IZVESTIYA LEADER ON JANUARY 18 IS A RINGING DEFENSE OF DETENTE. IT QUOTES, IN CAPS, THE STATEMENT IN THE DECEMBER PLENUM APPEAL THAT "FULFILLMENT OF PLANS FOR THE BUILDING OF COMMUNISM ARE INSEPARABLY LINKED TO THE PRESERVATION AND STRENGTHENING OF PEACE." THE
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EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT THE CONDITIONS FOR THE BUILDING OF COMMUNISM HAVE NEVER BEFORE BEEN AS FAVORABLE AS THEY ARE NOW, THANKS TO THE WISE POLICIES OF THE LENINIST PARTY "AND THE TIRELESS AND PURPOSEFUL FOREIGN POLICY" OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE POLITBURO, AND BREZHNEV. THE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE TO COMPLICATE THE STRUGGLE, AS WAS SEEN IN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF THIS YEAR, ESPECIALLY IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS; THE MIDDLE EAST AND CHINA CONTINUE TO BE TROUBLE SPOTS. THUS SOLIDARITY OF ALL ANTI-IMPERIALIST FORCES, THE WORLD COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES IS THE "ORDER OF THE TIMES."

8. THE IZVESTIYA LEADER CONTINUES: "EFFECTIVE EXECUTION OF THE PEACE PROGRAM HAS RESULTED IN THE ACHIEVEMENT

OF SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS IN IMPROVING THE WORLD POLITICAL
CLIMATE... IN 1975 THE PROCESS OF ACHIEVING MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE
CAPITALIST STATES ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY CAN AND
SHOULD CONTINUE, GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE, REALISTIC AND
CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH BY ALL SIDES. FURTHER WORK
(PODGOTOVKA) ON THE BASIS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD
WILL HAVE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE... OUR PARTY AND
GOVERNMENT IN 1975 WILL PERSISTENTLY STRUGGLE TO FILL
THE PEACE PROGRAM WITH LIFE, TO REDUCE FURTHER THE
DANGER OF WAR, AND TO FURTHER THE STABILITY AND
IRREVERSIBILITY OF DETENTE."

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9. THE PRAVDA LEADER ON THE SAME DAY, JANUARY 18, WHILE ADDRESSING THE SAME GENERAL TOPIC -- THE DECEMBER PLENUM AND THE PLENUM APPEAL -- IS STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT INTONE. IN DISCUSSING THE NEED FOR SOLIDARITY OF WORLD PROGRESSIVE FORCES, RATHER THAN STRESSING THE BENEFITS OF DETENTE, IT EMPHASIZES THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, STATING THAT "THE WORKING CLASS HAS MANAGED HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF WORLDWIDE SIGNIFICANCE IN BITTER BATTLES AGAINST CAPITALISM... THE WORLD SOCIALIST SYSTEM HAS BECOME A POWERFUL UNCONQUERABLE FORCE... THE UNITY OF (WORLD SOCIALISM, WORKERS AND

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NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS) IS THE GUARANTEE FOR NEW SUCCESSES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM."

10. THE PRAVDA LEADER CONTENTS THAT THE SUCCESS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAS BEEN "FIRMLY TIED" TO ASSISTANCE BY THE USSR "AND TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE PROGRAM" -- THE EDITORIAL'S ONLY ALLUSION TO DETENTE AND ITS BENEFITS. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY QUOTING BREZHNEV, BUT TO EFFECT THAT USSR IS AWARE OF ITS CONTINUING OBLIGATION TO ASSIST PROGRESSIVE AND NATIONAL LIBERATION FORCES RATHER THAN CHOOSING QUOTE ON BENEFITS OF DETENTE FOR PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE IN LINE WITH RECENT SOVIET PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE SUCH AS THE PONOMAREV SPEECH IN BUDAPEST (REF B).

11. THE PRAVDA LEADER ALSO MAKES THE POINT THAT "THE RESULTS OF THE LABOR OF THE MILLIONS OF BUILDERS OF COMMUNISM ARE THE BASIS OF THE UNSWERVING GROWTH IN THE INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY OF THE SOVIET UNION," PLACING LESS-THAN-USUAL EMPHASIS ON THE BENEFITS OF THE POLICY OF DETENTE AND MORE THAN USUAL ON THE CHANGES IN SO-CALLED OBJECTIVE FACTORS. THE LEAD EDITORIAL IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON JANUARY 21 MAKES MUCH THE SAME POINT: "THE MAIN POLITICAL RESULT OF THE THE LAST FOUR YEARS (IN PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN 'ALL SPHERES OF SOCIAL LIFE') IS THAT WHICH HAS BEEN SECURED BY THE DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY." THE KRASNAYA ZVEZDA LEADER CONTINUES WITH ITS USUAL LUKEWARM LINE ON DETENTE BY CONTENDING THAT THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE PARTY IS IMBUED WITH CONCERN OVER A STRENGTHENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL POSITION AND AUTHORITY OF THE SOVIET UNION, AND, FOLLOWING THE PEACE PROGRAM AND A LENINIST FOREIGN POLICY, THE SOCIALIST STATES HAVE MADE A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION

TO THE NORMALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.
IT CONCLUDES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL POSITION OF THE
SOVIET UNION IS STABLE AS NEVER BEFORE, BUT WARNS
OF THE NEED TO REMAIN VIGILANT AGAINST THE ENEMIES
OF DETENTE.
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12. CRITICAL COVERAGE OF THE U.S. IN COMMENTARIES,
NEWS ITEMS, AND CARTOONS REMAINS VERY HEAVY. COMING
UNDER THE HEAVIEST ATTACKS ARE ALLEGED U.S.
CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE
OIL-PRODUCING STATES; THE TRADE ACT, WHICH IS ATTACKED
THROUGH REPLAYING EXTENSIVE LATIN AMERICAN CRITICISM
AS WELL AS THROUGH CRITICISM OF ITS EFFECT ON SOVIET-
AMERICAN RELATIONS; ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA, BOTH INSIDE
AND OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. A BEREZIN COMMENTARY IN
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON JANUARY 21 DETAILS AT GREAT LENGTH,
ALLEGED CIA PLOTS AND ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA, STATING
AT ONE POINT THAT THE CIA, "PENTAGON INTELLIGENCE,"
"NAVY, AIR FORCE, AND ARMY INTELLIGENCE," "STATE
DEPARTMENT INTELLIGENCE," AND OTHER BRANCHES OF THE
U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY "TOOK A MOST DIRECT AND
ACTIVE PART" IN THE OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE. HE
ALSO QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM A WASHINGTON MONTHLY
ARTICLE THAT IN MANY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AT LEAST
HALF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE CIA, AND
THAT IN SANTO DOMINGO "THE NUMBER OF SPIES IN THE
POLITICAL SECTION IS MORE THAN TWICE AS LARGE AS THE
NUMBER OF ACTUAL PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS."

13. U.S. SUPPORT OF SOUTH VIETNAM IS
CRITICIZED IN STIFF TERMS. NORTH VIETNAMESE AND
PRG STATEMENTS ARE REPLAYED ACCUSING THE U.S. OF
VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT. AN ARTICLE BY VIKTOR
MAYEVSKIY IN IZVESTIYA JANUARY 20 CONTENDS THAT THE
DIFFICULT TIMES THROUGH WHICH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE
PEOPLE ARE NOW LIVING "ARE THE FAULT OF THIEU AND HIS
FOREIGN PATRIOTS" WHO SUPPLY THIEU WITH 85 PER CENT
OF HIS BUDGET.
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